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In the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Inventor Messerschmidt et al.

Paper:

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Examiner: Nguyen, Thong Q

Title: Sample Holder

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Response to Office Action

Responsive to the Office Action mailed 1/27/2004, Applicant submits the following in complete response thereto, and requests reconsideration of the Claims presented.

Amendment

Please amend the Claims as shown on the attached sheets.

Please amend the Specification as shown on the attached sheets.

Please amend the Drawings as shown on the attached sheets.

Fee

After the present Amendment, there are 31 Claims total, of which 5 are independent. Applicant previously paid for 40 total Claims, and 4 independent Claims. Accordingly, the fee due with this Amendment is **\$43** corresponding to 1 additional independent Claims at the applicable small entity rate of \$43 per independent Claim, and 0 additional total Claims at the applicable small entity rate or \$9 per dependent Claim.

This deadline for response to the Office Action, with a two month extension, fell on Sunday. This Response is filed on the next business day. Accordingly, a two month extension is requested, at **\$210** at the applicable small entity rate. If a three month extension is required, please consider this a request for a three month extension.

The total of the above fees is **\$253**. The Director is hereby authorized to charge that fee, and charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments, to deposit account **502443**.

07/02/2004 BABRAHA1 00000101 502443 10628839

01 FC:2252 210.00 DA

07/02/2004 BABRAHA1 00000101 10628839

02 FC:2201 43.00 DA

In the Drawings.

Applicant submits herewith replacement sheets, containing only the following changes:

Figure 2 - reference "293" deleted;

Figure 4 – reference "410" deleted (note that reference "402" also cited by the Office is mentioned in the specification in paragraph [0028], page 9 line 24);

Figure 5 – references "510", "592", "593", and "594" deleted (note that reference "502" also cited by the Office is mentioned in the specification in paragraph [0029], page 9 line 33);

Figure 6 – references "619", "692", "693", and "694" deleted (note that reference "602" also cited by the Office is mentioned in the specification in paragraph [0030], page 10 line 4);

Figure 7 – reference "710" deleted;

Figure 8 – references "807" and "810" deleted.